

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University Open Scholarship

Volume 12

Washington University
Undergraduate Research Digest

Spring 2017

Grey Matter Volume and Functional Connectivity of the Frontoparietal Network in Schizophrenia

Anita Mahadevan

Washington University in St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol12

Recommended Citation

Mahadevan, Anita, "Grey Matter Volume and Functional Connectivity of the Frontoparietal Network in Schizophrenia" (2017). *Volume 12*. 127.

https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/wuurd_vol12/127

This Abstracts J-R is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington University Undergraduate Research Digest at Washington University Open Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Volume 12 by an authorized administrator of Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact digital@wumail.wustl.edu.

GREY MATTER VOLUME AND FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY OF THE FRONTOPARIETAL NETWORK IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Anita Mahadevan

Mentor: Deanna Barch

Schizophrenia is a chronic psychiatric disorder that afflicts approximately 1% of the population. A particularly debilitating symptom of schizophrenia manifests as cognitive deficits, which contribute to struggles in everyday functioning; however the neural mechanisms underlying these deficits remain unclear. Past research suggests cognitive impairment may be associated with abnormalities in prefrontal brain structure such as reduced grey matter volume, while a separate line of research has implicated abnormal functional connectivity of the frontoparietal network (FPN). Importantly, the association between structural and functional abnormalities, and their relationships with cognition, have not yet been explored. In this study, we analyzed data from 193 healthy controls and 146 schizophrenia participants. We assessed group differences in grey matter volume and resting-state functional connectivity of frontal nodes within the FPN. We predicted reduced volume and connectivity in schizophrenia participants compared to controls. Furthermore, we studied the relationship between grey matter volume and functional connectivity of regions within the FPN, and predicted that reduced grey matter volume of these regions would correlate with reduced functional connectivity. Finally, we assessed the relevance of these brain measures to cognitive ability. Contrary to our hypotheses, we found that grey matter volume and functional connectivity of our regions of interest were not significantly different between diagnostic groups. However, functional connectivity of two nodes within the frontal gyrus were significantly associated with grey matter volume of the inferior, orbital, and medial frontal gyri, though this relationship did not differ significantly by diagnostic group. Finally, FPN functional connectivity did not predict cognitive performance on tasks. These data suggest that in schizophrenia, grey matter volume of the prefrontal cortex does not relate to the functional connectivity of FPN nodes in this region, and furthermore that the communication of these FPN nodes does not account for the global cognitive deficits observed with schizophrenia.